



APAC Accreditation Assessment Summary Report

Higher Education Provider	Murdoch University, Murdoch campus
Date of determination	13 February 2017
Standards version	June 2010 ver 10; Rules 2014 incorporating amendments as at 30 May 2016
Programs of Study Assessed for Accreditation	<p>Three year: Bachelor of Arts in Social and Developmental Psychology Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience and Health Psychology</p> <p>4th year: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Psychology Graduate Diploma in Psychology</p> <p>5th year: Master of Applied Psychology (Professional)</p> <p>5th and 6th years: Master of Applied Psychology (Organisational Psychology) Master of Applied Psychology (Organisational Psychology) + Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) + Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</p> <p>5th, 6th and 7th years: Doctor of Psychology (Organisational Psychology) Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)</p> <p>Note: The degree nomenclature has been taken from the application and the full APAC report. It differs from the nomenclature used variously in places such as the website by the University.</p>

This is a summary of the outcomes of an APAC accreditation assessment of the School of Psychology and Exercise Science at Murdoch University and its programs of study. This summary highlights

selected key features of the assessment. Comprehensive analysis of the assessment is contained in the full APAC Assessment Team report.

Since the previous visit accreditation visit in 2012, the University has restructured, removing Faculties and establishing nine large schools. In the restructure, the former School of Psychology was amalgamated with Exercise Science to form the School of Psychology and Exercise Science which is headed by a Dean who reports directly to Senior Management. Associated with this change, there has been an increased emphasis on research.

Another change that has occurred since 2012 is that the University's undergraduate degree structure has been revised and this resulted in the previously accredited undergraduate three year degrees being replaced in 2014 by the two new undergraduate degrees listed above. Although students will be graduating from these two degrees at the end of 2016, no formal application for accreditation has ever been submitted. It appears that the request for re-accreditation in 2016 rather than 2017 was to address this situation. It is noted that these two degrees will be replaced by two new degrees in 2017, for which applications for accreditation will have to be made.

The School of Psychology and Exercise Science is the AOU. The Dean of the School is Professor Mike Anderson, a psychologist who is an experienced academic with an established research record and international profile. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the School, there is also a Head of Discipline (Dr Suzanne Dziurawiec).

The AOU offers undergraduate programs in Singapore in conjunction with its offshore partner and an application for accreditation will be made in 2017.

The nomenclature of Master of Applied Psychology (Professional) does not conform to APAC Standard 2.3.8. Until the APAC Standards align with the AQF, this program will have to be accredited with conditions. All other degrees are nomenclature compliant.

Since the previous accreditation visit, there has been a large change in staffing with about two thirds of the current staff having been appointed subsequent to 2012. In relation to Standard 2.4.8, there are staffing problems with the postgraduate programs in Organisational Psychology. While the coordinator, Dr Graeme Ditchburn, a Level C academic, is an endorsed Organisational Psychologist, none of the rest of the staff who teach in the program are endorsed. In addition, there does not appear to be a Level D or E appointment with the relevant expertise to provide academic leadership for the program. Standard 2.4.8 is not met for the organisational psychology programs.

The School has a total of 11.6 FTE support staff. Nine of those positions are specific to Psychology. The School has a number of dedicated laboratories and small teaching rooms which are adequate but they are far from optimal. There are plans to build new laboratories for psychology.

The School has a well-stocked test library with appropriate operating procedures. While there is no set budget for the test library, it does appear to be possible to obtain funding whenever necessary to purchase test material. An endorsed Clinical Psychologist has responsibility for the test library and there is a part-time (.4) test librarian.

Murdoch University has a web-based learning management system (LMS) using Moodle. Via the MyMurdoch portal, students can access learning materials and activities, and communicate with teaching staff and other students within an online unit. For each unit, there is a comprehensive and generally up-to-date unit outline.

All the general *Accreditation Standards* for the AOU, with the exception of those discussed above, were met.

The psychology major differs in the two degrees, and neither of these majors individually satisfies the *Standards* relating to content coverage. To address this problem, students are told that 'with the addition of only three further core units, students are able to complete all the requirements of a three-year sequence fully accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council' (2016 *Undergraduate Handbook*, p.218).

The psychology major in the BA degree focuses mainly on social and developmental psychology. To achieve the 'accredited sequence', students have to take units in biological bases of behaviour, cognitive processes and abnormal behaviour in addition to the 11 core units in their degree. With the inclusion of those additional units, the BA covers all the required core topics and meets all the *Standards*.

The psychology major in the BSc degree focuses mainly on cognitive neuroscience and in order to gain the 'accredited sequence' students are required to take the following units – Introduction to cultural and community psychology, social bases of behaviour and human development. Even with the inclusion of these three additional units, however, there is little or no coverage of personality, individual differences, motivation or emotion, all of which are core knowledge areas required by Standard 3.1.7 Graduate Attribute 1. Standards 3.1.5 to 3.1.8 are not met for the BSc. The other *Standards* are met for the BSc.

A variety of methods are used for assessing the psychology units and these include laboratory reports, essays, quizzes, presentations and examinations. Inspection of assessed work indicated that it was of an appropriate standard and that the feedback given was appropriate.

Two fourth year psychology programs are offered by Murdoch University. The first is the Honours program which can be taken in either the BA (Hons) or the BSc (Hons) and the second is the Graduate Diploma in Psychology. There is considerable overlap between these programs which are both one year in length and have an appropriate structure.

In both programs, students take core units in both psychological intervention and psychological assessment thus meeting the second and third dot points of Standard 4.1.4. Students are required to attend a seminar unit which is supposed to cover the requirement for advanced theoretical and empirical psychology knowledge that is required by the first dot point of Standard 4.1.4. Although there are different unit numbers and titles for the seminars in the Honours and Graduate Diploma programs, they are run as a single unit. It was a new unit introduced in 2016 and seemed to be aimed largely at supporting the research component of the programs. It was advertised as an 'interactive seminar' by breaking the class into small groups each with a facilitator. Feedback from the students suggested that this approach was not successful. The overall impression is that the content and structure of this unit are rather vague and it does not meet Standard 4.1.4 for advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge.

The main difference between the Honours and Graduate Diploma programs is the research component. In the former, the research component is 62.5% of the total program and students complete individual research projects. In the Graduate Diploma, the research component is 50% and students participate in group projects, with each writing up an individual report with one or more unique research questions. These students appear to be involved in all the steps of the research project although this is constrained as they are working within the context of a group

project. To make up for the lesser weighting of the research component, students in the Graduate Diploma are required to take an additional coursework subject entitled practical skills. There is a research 'conference' at which students present a poster of their completed research. This provides valuable skills training for the students.

Evidence was supplied of bench marking exercises undertaken with Western Sydney University (WSU) and La Trobe in 2013 and was in response to a condition imposed in the 2012 accreditation report. The benchmarking involved four Honours and four Bachelor of Psychology projects being assessed by La Trobe and WSU respectively. These exercises were deemed not sufficient for the purposes of the present assessment for a number of reasons. The main reason was that Murdoch University had given a commitment to APAC in 2013 that it would conduct regular benchmarking but there is no evidence that this had occurred. Standard 4.1.20 is not met.

Apart from those listed above, the *Accreditation Standards* for the fourth year courses are met.

The Master of Applied Psychology (Professional) is a one year 5th year program which provides an education in basic professional practice. Using an evidence-based approach that is based on the scientist- practitioner model, it is broad and generalist. The program's main aim is to prepare graduates sufficiently to allow them to undertake one year of supervised practice prior to registration.

A novel feature of this program is that there are two strands – the standard strand and the pre-clinical strand. These two streams have different practical requirements and students who are in the pre-clinical strand are able to apply for entry to the Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) and gain recognition for prior learning.

The coursework consists of units drawn from the Clinical program (Psychotherapy in Practice; Working with Children and Families), a unit drawn from the Organisational program (Work and Wellbeing), and units common to all Murdoch Psychology postgraduate streams (Advanced Research Methods; Psychological Assessment; Theory and Method). This combination provides an appropriate foundational education and training in the core capabilities listed in Standard 5.1.12 and the material is linked to the skills training.

Students are required to complete two practicum placements, one in the first semester and one in the second. Students appear to be obtaining the appropriate amount of supervision and the procedures and forms relating to supervision contracts and final placement assessment are appropriate. All copies of these forms and other documentation seen by the Assessment team during the visit had been signed off appropriately.

All the *Accreditation Standards* for the 5th year program are met.

Note that until the APAC *Accreditation Standards* align with the AQF, the Master of Professional Psychology, the nomenclature of which does not meet Standard 2.3.8, can only receive accreditation with conditions.

The School of Psychology and Exercise Science offers a Master of Applied Psychology (Organisational Psychology) course, a combination of that course with a PhD, and Doctor of Psychology (Organisational Psychology) course. The professional training program component of the courses is identical, other than the placement component in the doctorate being longer. The programs combine coursework, practical experience under supervision and a research project, and they are guided by a scientist-practitioner model of learning.

There are some issues relating to staffing arrangements for the Organisational Psychology programs. There is only one endorsed Organisational Psychologist teaching in the program and there is no appropriate Level D or E appointment to provide suitable leadership to the program as is required by Standard 5.1.1 (and Standard 2.4.8).

In relation to Standard 5.1.3, the member of staff who is responsible for the external practical placements, while registered, is not an endorsed Organisational Psychologist and nor would he currently qualify for membership of the APS College of Organisational Psychologists.

All the Organisational Psychology programs consist of coursework, research and practical placements and these components are integrated. Other than one elective unit, the coursework is all psychology and is taught by people with psychology qualifications, the majority of whom are registered and teaching in their area of expertise.

There is a major problem relating to the four organisational psychology-focused units. Those four units are also offered in unaccredited programs viz. the Graduate Diploma in Consultancy Psychology and the Graduate Certificate in Human Resources and Safety. The entry requirement for those two programs is a three year Bachelor's degree in any discipline and one year's relevant work experience. In other words those units are being taken by students who may not have studied any psychology. The accepted model of training in psychology is that the first four years of psychology education is the theoretical foundation and knowledge base on which postgraduate professional training is built. Standard 5.1 is not met for either the Masters or Doctoral programs.

In the documentation, there was no mention of the APAC requirement that credit can only be given for coursework that has been completed in an APAC accredited course. As no information was given in the application regarding credit for placement experience, that Standard is also not met. Standards 5.1.9 and 5.1.10 are not met for the Masters and Doctoral programs.

The logbooks that were provided detailed the nature and hours of placement in sufficient detail. However, there was no evidence that the logbooks were being retained by the university for 10 years. As students were not keeping a single logbook, there was also no evidence that a final check of the logbook was undertaken. Standard 5.1.17 was not met for either program.

The second practicum for the Masters students occurs in the second year and consists of three 40 day placements that are external to the University. These placements together with the internal placement appear to provide the required number of hours to satisfy Standard 5.3.18, but there is no evidence to demonstrate that is the case. This is due to the lack of a single log book that makes it difficult to verify if students have completed 1000 hours of practice. Standard 5.3.18 is not met for the Masters and Doctoral programs.

In the Doctor of Psychology (Organisational Psychology) the students complete the same internal placement as the Masters students in the first year. They are then required to do three 40 day and one 67 day placements. However, again there is no evidence to indicate that the students do in fact complete 1500 hours of practicum. Standard 5.4.4 is not met.

There was no evidence provided to demonstrate that students were receiving at least 50% individual supervision. The logbooks also indicated that students were undertaking a substantive number of hours of practice without contemporaneous supervision. Implicit in Standard 5.3.25 is that the supervision should be occurring regularly in order to monitor the students' performance so

this Standard is not met for either program.

The School of Psychology and Exercise Science offers a fifth and sixth year Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) which requires a minimum of two fulltime academic years to complete. The Masters program can be taken in combination with a PhD and that entails four years of study. A Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) which is 3.5 years in duration is also offered. The Clinical Psychology programs combine coursework, practical experience under supervision and a research project and are guided by a scientist-practitioner model of learning which emphasises the integration of translational research and practice. Some Standards requiring attention during the site visit and in the draft report were addressed promptly by the AOU and those Standards subsequently met. While progress appears to have been made, a follow-up site visit should take place in 2017.

The coursework in the Masters and Doctoral programs are identical with seven compulsory units and no electives. The assessment team inspected some of the coursework of the clinical students and reviewed unit outlines and the clinical program handbook. The coursework appears to meet the core capabilities indicated in Standard 5.1.12. The coursework clearly links research and practical application.

In the doctoral program there were difficulties relating to the requirement of additional course work of greater depth or breadth than that in the Masters program (Standard 5.4.4). This extra coursework comprised a total of six one day seminars but this was not reflected in relevant documentation. These seminars/workshops appear to have been ones that Dr Lee (a staff member at the time) organised in a private capacity. Given his recent resignation from the university, those workshop may no longer be available to students. There does not seem to be any formal assessment of the advanced coursework. While there are currently no students enrolled in the Doctor of Psychology degree who need to complete the advanced coursework, Standard 5.4.4 is not met in relation to the coursework component of the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology).

Standard 5.4.4 is also not met in relation to the placements and the AOU must provide evidence that in the final placement students are expected to operate at a higher level of autonomy and responsibility than that expected of Masters level students and that there be a higher level of integration of theory and practice than in the Masters program.

All other *Accreditation Standards* for the Master of Applied Psychology (Clinical Psychology) including the sequence with the PhD and the Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology) are met.

The School has received approval for the current Doctor of Psychology (Clinical) to be re-classified as an AQF Level 10 Professional Doctorate that also meets the requirements of a RTS funded higher degree by research. Within the revised course, the weighting of the coursework, research and practicum components remain the same but the content of the research and practicum components has changed. The main change to the research unit is that it will consist of both a traditional thesis of about 40,000 words and a translational research project. The two doctoral placement units have been restructured so that they can also count as research units in order to meet the requirements of an RTS degree. Consequently these units have been labelled Research Integrated Practicums. Within these practicums, in addition to doing the normal placement activities, students will be required to collect data and write up the translational research project that is part of the research unit.

The proposed changes do not represent any substantive change from the existing accredited program and hence do not raise any new issues in relation to the *Accreditation Standards*.

Conversely, the revisions do not satisfactorily address any of the conditions relating to the current version of the course and these will still need to be addressed. It will be essential that the extra research activities in the practicums do not come at the cost of quality clinical training and this will need to be closely monitored by APAC.

The accreditation outcomes are summarised in the attached Accreditation Summary Checklist.



APAC Accreditation Summary Checklist

for use with APAC Standards June 2010 Version 10

Name of Higher Education Provider: Murdoch University

Date of Site Visit: 9 – 12 August 2016

Accreditation of the AOU

Rules	Rule Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Section 5 – Accreditation Status	5.1-5.6	✓		

General Accreditation Standards

	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
The Psychology AOU	2.1.1-10	✓		
Multi-Campus Institutions	2.2.1-2			✓
Degree Nomenclature	2.3.1-13		✓	
Academic Staffing	2.4.1-11		✓	
Resources	2.5.1-12	✓		
Teaching and Materials: Managing the Learning Process	2.6.1-14	✓		
Special Arrangements for Offshore Teaching	2.6.15			✓

Undergraduate 3-Year Sequence Program of Study

Bachelor of Arts	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Length	3.1.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5	✓		
Program of Study Content	3.1.6-10	✓		
Assessment	3.1.11-16	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

Undergraduate 3-Year Sequence Program of Study

Bachelor of Science	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Length	3.1.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	3.1.2-5		✓	
Program of Study Content	3.1.6-10		✓	
Assessment	3.1.11-16	✓		
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	3.1.17-19	✓		

Undergraduate Fourth Year Program of Study

	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Entry Requirements	4.1.1	✓		
Length	4.1.2	✓		



Program of Study Structure	4.1.3	✓		
Program of Study Content	4.1.4-7		✓	
Research Methods and Professional and Research Ethics	4.1.8	✓		
Research Project	4.1.9-15	✓		
Assessment	4.1.16-22		✓	
Awarding of Credit or Advance Standing	4.1.23-25	✓		

Master of Professional Psychology (5th Year) Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Studies	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17	✓		
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.2.1-2	✓		
Length	5.2.3	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.2.4-6	✓		
Coursework	5.2.7	✓		
Practica and Skills Training	5.2.8-18	✓		

Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Organisational Psychology				
Staffing	5.1.1-3		✓	
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11		✓	
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		



Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17		✓	
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

Fifth and Sixth Year Masters Program of Study	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Clinical Psychology				
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17	✓		
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.3.3-4	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.3.5-8	✓		
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.3.11-16	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30	✓		



Professional Doctorate Programs of Study Doctor of Psychology in Organisational Psychology	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3		✓	
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11		✓	
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		
Log Book	5.1.17		✓	
Assessment	5.1.18-19		✓	
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5		✓	
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30		✓	

Professional Doctorate Programs of Study Doctor of Psychology (Clinical Psychology)	Standard Number	Satisfied	Not Yet Satisfied	N/A
Staffing	5.1.1-3	✓		
Advisory/Liaison and Quality Review Committee	5.1.4	✓		
Resources	5.1.5-8	✓		
Credit for Previous Study	5.1.9-11	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Knowledge of the Discipline	5.1.12(a)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Ethical, Legal and Professional Matters	5.1.12(b)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Psychological Assessment & Measurement	5.1.12(c)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Intervention Strategies	5.1.12(d)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Research and Evaluation	5.1.12(e)	✓		
Core Capabilities and Attributes – Communication and Interpersonal Relationships	5.1.12(f)	✓		
Core Capabilities Assessment	5.1.13-16	✓		



Log Book	5.1.17	✓		
Assessment	5.1.18-19	✓		
Entry Requirements	5.3.1-2	✓		
Length	5.4.1	✓		
Program of Study Structure	5.4.2-5		✓	
Coursework	5.3.9-10	✓		
Research	5.4.6-11	✓		
Practical Placements	5.3.17-30	✓		

Comments:

Programs offered in Singapore by Murdoch University will be assessed in 2017.

Master of Applied Psychology (Professional), a grade of Accreditation with Conditions will apply until APAC Standard 2.3.8 (June 2010) aligns with current AQF specifications.

Doctor of Psychology in Organisational Psychology – Standard 5.1 Not yet Satisfied.

Authorised:

Professor Simon Crowe

Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

Date: 3 March 2017